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## REVIEWS

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### THE TUDOR SHAKESPEARE<sup>1</sup>

All teachers, students, and lovers of Shakespeare are much in the debt of Professor Neilson and Professor Thorndike for the new handy-volume edition of the works of the great dramatist which they have prepared and published with the title of the *Tudor Shakespeare*. The text is that established by Professor Neilson and already printed in the single volume known as the Cambridge edition. With this excellent text as a basis, the various editors, chosen from among well-known professors of English in American colleges and universities, have prepared for each volume an introduction, a compact body of notes, and a glossary. Each volume is also supplied with a frontispiece, being a reproduction of some famous portrait or drawing of Shakespeare, one of his characters, or of a noted actor in his plays.

There are many convenient editions of Shakespeare for the student and the general reader, but the *Tudor Shakespeare* seems to the reviewer in many ways the most satisfactory of all. Nothing is included which does not contribute directly to the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the play. The introductions are remarkable for their clear, concise, and suggestive setting-forth of the history and sources of the plays and for their comments upon the meaning and the characters. Only the really essential points are touched upon and these in illuminating fashion. It is difficult to lay down even the most familiar of the plays when one has finished the introduction—which constitutes a real introduction—to it.

The notes are made up in large measure of paraphrases of those expressions in the plays which are actually obscure or of doubtful meaning. Explanations are added sparingly, and the reader's mind is never for a moment led astray by such by-play of erudition as has frequently weighted down the pages of the author. Words now obsolete or changed in meaning will be found in the glossary, each followed by a synonymous word or phrase and very often also by a reference to the note on the passage in which the word occurs. In addition,

<sup>1</sup> *The Tudor Shakespeare*. Edited by W. A. Neilson and A. H. Thorndike. New York: Macmillan, 1913. 40 vols. \$o.35 each.

reference to act, scene, and line is given, so that comparison of contexts is made easily possible.

Thirty-nine volumes are devoted to the plays and poems. To make the tale complete, a fortieth has been prepared by the general editors, with the title, *The Facts about Shakespeare*. In a single small volume of 273 pages has been packed all the information which the general reader of Shakespeare will ever need, and by means of selected and classified bibliographies the student is directed to the library and may pursue his interests at will. The range of matter included in the book will best be indicated by quoting the chapter headings. These are: "Shakespeare's England and London," "Biographical Facts and Traditions," "Shakespeare's Reading," "Chronology and Development," "The Elizabethan Drama," "The Elizabethan Theatre," "The Text of Shakespeare," "Questions of Authenticity," "Shakespeare since 1616," "Conclusion." Four appendixes are added, containing, respectively, biographical documents, an index of characters, an index of songs, and the bibliography. There is also, of course, a good general index.

The *Tudor Shakespeare* will undoubtedly become a formidable rival of the well-known Temple edition. In several respects it seems to the present reviewer superior. To mention a single particular, it includes fuller information without at the same time indulging in speculation or in useless pedantry. The publishers have done their part well. The volumes are printed on laid paper in clear type and bound in substantial cloth or in leather. Thus the work is as pleasing in appearance as it is scholarly in contents. It is difficult to see how a better could have been prepared.

J. F. H.

### BOOK NOTICES

[Mention under this head does not preclude review elsewhere.]

*The Conservation of the Child.* By ARTHUR HOLMES. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1913. Pp. 345. \$1.25 net.

A manual of clinical psychology presenting the examination and treatment of backward children.

*Current Activities and Influences in Education.* By JOHN PALMER GARBER. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1913. Pp. 370.

The third volume of "The Annals of Educational Progress."

*What Children Study and Why.* By CHARLES B. GILBERT. Chicago: Silver, Burdett & Co., 1913. Pp. 331.

A discussion of educational values in the elementary course of study. One-third of the space is given to English.